

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00528 102318Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----102322Z 000142 /62
O 102255Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2410
INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, OECD, CA
SUBJ: OECD DEVELOPMENT CENTER PRESIDENCY

REF: A. OECD PARIS 3842; B. OTTAWA 4576

1. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST CONTAINED REF A, EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE LITTLE MORE ABOUT SABOURIN THAN THAT ALREADY TRANSMITTED (REF B). HOWEVER, FOLLOWING COMMENTS RESPOND TO SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED REF A, PARA 6. THIS CONSENSUS REFLECTS IMPRESSIONS OF AMBASSADOR AND SEVERAL EMBOFFS, AS WELL AS DISCREET INQUIRY ADDRESSED TO ONE OF SABOURIN'S FRIENDS WHOSE JUDGMENT EMBASSY TRUSTS.

2. BY ALL REPORTS, SABOURIN HAS CONDUCTED HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AT OTTAWA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITH DISTINCTION. HE THEREFORE APPEARS TO HAVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT CENTER JOB.

3. SABOURIN'S PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND IS IN LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE. HE IS NOT AN ECONOMIST. HOWEVER, HE MAINTAINS PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THIRD WORLD PROBLEMS
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AND IS FULLY CONVERSANT WITH ECONOMIC ISSUES THAT UNDERLIE MOST OF THEM. HE SEEMS WELL VERSED IN THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH.

4. SABOURIN APPEARS HIGHLY SYMPATHETIC TO THIRD WORLD. HE IS STRONG FRENCH/CANADIAN NATIONALIST (BUT NOT SEPARATIST). THAT SYNDROME CAN ENCOMPASS DEGREE OF RESENT-

MENT OF THOSE WHO EXERCISE ECONOMIC CONTROL BUT WE
HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF THAT IN SABOURIN'S CASE.

5. SABOURIN WAS IVP GRANTEE SIX YEARS AGO. APPARENTLY
HE ENJOYED AND PROFITED FROM EXPERIENCE, BUT EMBASSY HAS
NEVER HAD MUCH SUCESS SUBSEQUENTLY IN GETTING SABOURIN'S
INTEREST OR SUPPORT FOR USIS-SPONSORED PROGRAMS (SUCH AS
SPEAKERS). WE CANN FULLY EXPLAIN SABOURIN'S ELUSIVE-
NESS, BUT IT MAY BE GROUNDED IN DESIRE NOT TO BECOME
IDENTIFIED (AT LEAST AT HIS UNIVERSITY) WITH USG
INTERESTS.

6. IN SUM, WE RECOMMEND SABOURIN AS LIKELY TO BE
EFFICIENT, RESPONSIBLE, AND COMPASSIONATE PRESIDENT OF
DEVELOPMENT CENTER.
ENDERS

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